

COMING UP AT ISLAND ECC

TODAY 2013 Island ECC Devotional Calendar

The Island ECC Devotional Calendar is now available! May it bring blessings and joy to your household and friends! It is \$50 each and now available on each floor.

TODAY Return Christmas Stockings

If you have taken a Christmas bag or stocking and have not returned it by TODAY, please bring it back to the church office on 8/F a.s.a.p. before December 9 for packing. Contact flo@islandecc.hk if you have questions.

ReNEW Christmas - Friday, December 7 - SOLD OUT

Due to an exciting response to this event, all tickets have been claimed and this event is full. If you registered for a ticket but have not yet received it, please pick it up at the Connect Counter. If you took tickets that you do not plan to use, please bring those to the Connect Counter as well so we can make them available to others! Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm.

DEC 9 Christmas Love Offering

Next week you will have the opportunity to give to our annual Christmas Love Offering. This is a chance to give generously, over and above your tithe, in order to support ministries in Hong Kong and beyond. Special offering envelopes will be provided.

DEC 9 You Got Served

You Got Served is a special appreciation lunch and team building opportunity for volunteers. We will celebrate our existing volunteers and connect new volunteers (or those interested in learning more). Get your free ticket for entry from the Connect Counter. There will be a special raffle draw. Email serve@islandecc.hk for more details. **Sunday, December 9, 1.30pm, 2/F.**

DEC 14 FUSE: Bus Carolling

Fuse, our Young Adult ministry is hosting a great Christmas carolling event for the 20 and 30-somethings! We will be zooming through Causeway Bay and Central on an open top double-decker bus, singing carols! Tickets are on sale at the Connect Counter for \$20 only. **Friday, December 14, 7.30-10pm.** Contact youngadults@islandecc.hk for more details.

DEC 24 Christmas Eve Services

Christmas is just around the corner and we look forward to celebrating with you at our special Christmas Eve services on **Monday, December 24**. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your family, friends and colleagues. Special music, creative features and a Christmas message will take place on all service floors at **6pm, 8pm and 10pm**.

Israel Study Trip 2013

The church is planning an Israel Study Trip for members from March 16 to 27, 2013. The trip will cover most of the important places in Israel and concludes with a visit to Petra and Mt. Nebo in Jordan. The cost is HK\$28,000 per person. Contact Pastor Rick at rick@islandecc.hk for enquiry and registration. Deadline is **Sunday, December 9, 2012**.

New Check-in System

Children's Ministries is preparing for a new check-in system and needs the help of all parents. Prior to the launch of the new system in January, we need families to be pre-registered and set up with their account on The City. For more information, please pick up a flyer on the 9/F.

Sermon Podcasts Online

Video podcasts of weekly sermons are available online at www.islandecc.hk. Consequently, we will no longer be providing CDs of sermons.



www.islandecc.hk

WATCH FOR. . . ON THE CITY

Weekly Devotionals

Each week one of the pastors posts an uplifting and thoughtful devotional word on the Island ECC group.

Vacancies for staff on the Marketplace

- Caretakers and cleaners for our church facility.
- Staff for our 10/F Nursery on Sunday mornings.

NEW TO ISLAND ECC?

1

MEET US AT THE CONNECT COUNTER ON 1/F

We are so glad that you're here today and would love to get to know you! The Connect Counter is located on the 1F and volunteers are there to answer any questions you might have about Island ECC and its different ministries and events.

2

JOIN THE CITY

The City is the online connection point for Island ECC. It's limited to the people who attend our church and over 1,000 people are already using this fantastic tool. By creating an account and logging in, you'll have access to weekly devotionals, updates on events, the chance to connect with others and more!

3

CHECK OUR WEBSITE

By visiting www.islandecc.hk, you'll have access to information about all our ministries, as well as a broad spectrum of resources - including video podcasts of sermons.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

HE LOVES

God loves you because he chooses to. "God wasn't attracted to you and didn't choose you because you were big and important... He did it out of sheer love..." (Deut. 7:7-8). He loves you so much that...

HE GAVE

He gave Jesus, His one and only Son. While we do wrong things daily, Jesus is sinless. Though sinless, Jesus took our sin. He died on the cross in our place. Our response to this great gift is simple...

WE BELIEVE

We trust Jesus to do what we can't. We don't trust our own efforts to save us. We can't save ourselves. We don't place our trust in other people to save us. We believe in Him.

WE LIVE

God gives us brand-new life. We have joy because of his Spirit living within us. Little by little his Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus. No guilt in life, no fear of death, He gives life, now ... and for eternity.

You can tell God you accept Him now.
"Father, I believe you love me. You gave your one and only Son so I can live forever with you. Apart from you, I die. With you, I live. I choose life. I choose you."

photos: Egypt Mission Trip



December 2, 2012

Heart

The Heart of the Matter is ...

Lesson 1: God welcomes us as we are

Lawyer #1: *One of the teachers of the law ... asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"* (Mark 12:28)

Lawyer #2: *An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* (Luke 10:25)

Lesson 2: God desires a relationship motivated by love

²⁹*"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear (Shema), O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

³⁰*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*

³¹*The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

Mark 12:29-31

Lesson 3: Transformation of heart leads to transformation of life

³²*"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him.*

³³*To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

³⁴*When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."*

Mark 12:32-34